



Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 1042
Kihei, HI 96753

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How to Contact Us

You may submit comments or request CD-ROM copies of the Draft CCP/EAs by any of the following methods. A limited number of printed copies of the Draft CCP/EAs are also available.

Attend our Open House Meeting (see page 2 for details)

Email: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Please include "Maui NWRC CCP" in the subject line.

Mail: Glynnis Nakai, Project Leader
Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Milepost 6 Mokulele Highway (Hwy. 311)
P.O. Box 1042
Kihei, HI 96753
(808) 875-1582

Fax: (808) 875-2945

Visit the Refuges' Official Websites:
<http://www.fws.gov/kealiapond>
<http://www.fws.gov/kakahaia>



Ae'o / Tony Temple



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Keālia Pond and Kakahai'a National Wildlife Refuges

Planning Update Number 4, August 2011



Alae ke'oke'o / Sonny Gamponia

The Refuges' Draft CCP/EAs are Available for Public Comment! Your Comments are Important

We are pleased to announce the availability of our Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Environmental Assessments (CCP/EAs) for the Keālia Pond and Kakahai'a National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges), for public review and comment. Public involvement has been an integral part of the planning process, and the Draft CCP/EAs address the significant issues that we have heard about during the planning process. There are several ways for you to provide your comments—written letters, emails, or by attending the public meetings. The deadline for all comments is August XX, 2011.

Copies of the Draft CCP/EAs on CD-ROM or hard copy and/or a summary (planning update) can be obtained at the Refuge Complex office in Kihei; or you can request copies by calling the Refuge Complex at (808) 875-1582. The documents are also available online at :

<http://www.fws.gov/kealiapond/planning.html> or
<http://www.fws.gov/kakahaia/planning.html>

After we receive public comments, we will analyze and address your comments, finalize the CCP, and then publish it. We developed the Draft CCP/EAs to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for maintaining and improving the refuges' wetlands and other habitats for the long-term conservation of endangered Hawaiian waterfowl and native plants and animals.

The CCP will help guide refuge management actions for the next 15 years. It also provides future direction for the refuges' public use programs for the Refuges.

In This Update

- Draft CCP/EAs Open for Public Comment
- Refuges' Visions and Goals
- Planning Schedule
- How to Contact Us

Please share your ideas and comments with us by attending upcoming public meetings. Refuge staff will be available to answer your questions and provide a brief overview of the Draft CCP/EA management alternatives. Following the overview, those who wish to offer suggestions may do so. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed to Glynnis Nakai, Project Leader; see page 4 for details.

As you are reviewing the documents, please keep in mind that comments on the Draft CCP/EAs should be specific and should address the adequacy of the plan, the assessment, and the merits of the alternatives discussed.

In the final CCPs, the Service will respond to all substantive comments. After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the final CCPs.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your PII, may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

You're Invited. . .

Public Open House Meetings

Maui

Date: xx, August xx, 2011
Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Kihei Public Meeting Building
xxx
xxx
Kihei, HI 96753

Moloka'i

Date: xx, August xx, 2011
Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Mitchel Pauole Center
Conference Room
90 Ainoa Street
Kaunakakai, HI 96748



'Alae ke'oke'o and chick / Sonny Gamponia

Vision of the Future

It is through the vision and goals that future management direction of the refuge becomes focused to help achieve the refuge purpose(s) and legislative and policy mandates. Generally, the vision statement is a descriptive picture of how the refuge should look in the future, reflecting earlier discussions about the intent and clarification of the refuge purpose(s).

The Draft CCP/EAs management alternatives were summarized in Planning Update 3. For both refuges, they range from “no change” to full restoration of native habitats. Highlights of the Refuges’ preferred alternatives are:

**Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
Draft Vision**

Nestled along Maui’s southern shore amidst growing communities, Keālia Pond NWR is a welcome stretch of open space and water serving a vital watershed function to protect offshore reefs and waters. Within its mosaic of native wetland vegetation and open waters, thriving populations of long-legged ae’o raise their camouflaged fluff-ball chicks, while ‘alae ke’oke’o chicks with their red-orange downy heads and bills vie for their parents’ attention. Vacationing waterfowl peacefully glide through the waters, and shorebirds dart along the water’s edge, dining on spineless cuisine. As a vibrant national wildlife refuge, local residents and visitors alike find a means to reconnect with nature and play a significant role in protecting native wildlife and their habitats.

Keālia Pond NWR - Alternative C

Would maximize our ability to control water in the main pond and adjacent vegetated mudflats, significantly remove invasive plants, and control larger areas of pickleweed on the flats. Additional visitor services staff would increase visitor and educational opportunities, recruit and train volunteers to assist with refuge programs, and efforts would be made to provide vegetated barriers and/or blinds to provide better viewing opportunities. The proposed Molokini Unit, after establishment as an overlay refuge, would be managed as a seabird colony with periodic visits to monitor the ‘ua’u kani (wedge-tailed sheerwater) population and continue a long-term banding program. We would begin a new monitoring program

to determine the population parameters of ‘ou (Bulwer’s petrel). In addition, the Refuge would initiate a native plant restoration plan for Molokini.

**Kakahai’a National Wildlife Refuge
Draft Vision**

Sunlight sparkles off the wetland waters, surrounded by native sedges dancing in the tropical breeze. The coastal freshwater ponds host a growing population of ‘alae ke’oke’o watching over their fuzzy broods. On the soft, muddy banks, beautiful ae’o with long pink legs call “kip, kip, kip” to their chicks. The children of Moloka’i come to Kakahai’a NWR to learn of their heritage and to give back to their culture. Visitors peer into the wetlands from a cloaked overlook to enjoy nature’s spectacle, catching a glimpse of the verdant splendor of old Hawai’i.

Kakahai’a NWR - Alternative C

Would maximize wetland habitat with complete restoration of the 15-acre Old Pond and 5.5 acres of New Pond. All monitoring activities would resume and a predator-proof fence installed to minimize or eliminate predators from the wetlands. The opportunities for visitors to engage in wildlife-dependent recreation may expand depending on staffing, and, at a minimum, a kiosk would be constructed on the earthen mound along the refuge entrance road. Volunteer groups would be coordinated to assist staff with restoration and maintenance activities.

These plans detail program planning levels that are substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and prioritization purposes. The Draft CCP/EAs do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.

Planning Schedule

Planning Step:	Target Date:
Planning Update 4 (Draft Review).....	August 2011
Public review/comment on Draft CCP/EAs.....	Summer 2011
Final CCPs.....	Fall 2011

Schedule dates are tentative and subject to change as CCP planning progresses.